

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJ: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES, 7TH WEEK, ROUND VI

TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 124

1. SUMMARY: SEVENTH WEEK ROUND VI CONSISTED OF THREE PLANARY, ONE RESTRICTED AND THREE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. BRAZENLY MOROKHOV REVERTED MARCH 12 TO USSR INSISTENCE ON EXECPTIONS TO 150 KT EXPLOSIVE YIELD LIMIT. US POSITION CATEGORICALLY AGAINST EXCEPTIONS REAFFIRMED. MATHESON AND LAPTEV CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS ON LEGAL ISSUES. SOME PROGRESS MADE, BUT NOT ALL ISSUES RESOLVED. US AND SOVIETS AGREED THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SO FAR THIS ROUND AND PROPOSED NEED TO ACCELERATE. SOVIETS STILL STUDYING SEISMIC NETWORK RADIO LINKS, BUT SAID THEY SHOULD CAUSE NO DIFFICULTIES. AGREEMENT REACHED ON RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL (EXCEPT FOR PHOTO ISSUE) IN YIELD RANGE 100-150 KILTONS. BASIC ISSUE OF RIGHT TO BE PRESENT NOT RESOLVED. ISSUE OF POST-SHOT RETENTION OF EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH ALL WEEK AND NO INDICATION OF COMPROMISE HAS DEVELOPED. SOVIETS PRESENTED US NEW PROTOCOL TEXT ALONG LINES OF US PROTOCOL. END SUMMARY.

2. AT PLENARY, MARCH 9, STOESSEL AND MOROKHOV REVIEWED POSITION. STOESSEL SUGGESTED PARALLEL APPROACH IN

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DEALING WITH ISSUES TO RELIEVE THE "DEPLORABLY SLOW PACE"

OF NEGOTIATIONS. MOROKHOV REJECTED PROPOSAL, BUT CONFIRMED SLOW PACE; CLAIMED IT WAS "AGREED" TO DISCUSS ISSUES ONE AT A TIME. BOTH SIDES REVIEWED EQUIPMENT POSSESSION ISSUES, THRESHOLD FOR LOCAL SEISMIC NET AND EXPLOSIVE CANISTER LENGTHS GREATER THAN TEN METERS.

3. AT PLENARY, MARCH 10, MOROKHOV SAID SOVIETS STILL STUDYING RADIO LINKS, BUT SAID THESE SHOULD NOT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. MOROKHOV GAVE LONG DISCUSSION ON POST-SHOT POSSESSION OF EQUIPMENT. SAID US POSITION NOT DEFENSIBLE AND SOVIETS SUSPICIOUS OF IT. SOVIETS AGREED TO OBSERVER RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS IN YIELD RANGE OF 100-150 KT, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED REAL ISSUE IS WHETHER OBSERVERS CAN BE PRESENT AS RIGHT OR ONLY AT INVITATION OF HOST PARTY.

4. AT PLENARY, MARCH 11, STOESSEL NOTED SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF OBSERVER RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS IN YIELD RANGE OF 100-150 KT. HE ARGUED THAT OBSERVER PRESENCE MUST BE RIGHT OF VERIFYING SIDE. MOROKHOV PRESENTED JOINT BRACKETED PROTOCOL TEXT IN FORMAT OF SINGLE PROTOCOL. MOROKHOV REVIEWED HISTORY OF HOW SOVIETS HAD ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO MEET US HALF WAY, BUT US DID NOT RECIPROCATE. STOESSEL AGAIN PRESENTED ARGUMENTS ON US POSITION ON VERIFICATION EQUIPMENT.

5. AT PLENARY, MARCH 12, US MADE PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON SOVIET DRAFT PROTOCOL IN US FORMAT. SAID GENERAL FORMAT ACCEPTABLE AND DETAILED COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC TEXT WOULD BE PROVIDED MONDAY.

6. AT RESTRICTED MEETING, MARCH 12, MOROKHOV SAID SOVIETS HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON "EXCEPTIONS" TO 150 KT YIELD LIMIT ON INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIVES. SAID THIS IS A FIRM SOVIET POSITION. HE SAID US MISUNDERSTOOD HIS COMMENTS OF FEB 19. STOESSEL REPEATED US POSITION THAT EXCEPTIONS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US. MOROKHOV SUGGESTED ISSUE SHOULD BE PASSED TO "OUR SUPERIORS".

STOESSEL

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